

CONTENTS — DECEMBER, 1970

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Calculation	Susan L.M. Huck	1
A Real Man!	Taylor Caldwell	13
Another Cuba	Harold Lord Varney	21
The Heist	David O. Woodbury	29
Pornography	Medford Evans	31
Woman	E. Merrill Root	41
Fedcop	Gary Allen	49
De Libris	Medford Evans	73

Dear Reader:

The families of the more than fifteen hundred Americans listed as Missing In Action in Southeast Asia still have no word this Christmas on whether their brothers and husbands and fathers and sons are living or dead. How many of them, like Captain David Devers and Master Sergeant John O'Neill, have been captured, tortured, put on public display by the Communists, and then executed is not known. What is known is that at least 460 American servicemen are now in the hands of one of the most brutal enemies we have ever faced.

It is Christmas. The young American in Daniel Canavan's painting on our cover has survived. For five years he has survived the degradation and the beatings and the filth and the propaganda of a North Vietnamese prison camp. He has survived. But the mind plays strange games on even the bravest of men in such circumstances.

A handful of straw. Christmas!

His thoughts are thousands of miles away now. In Chicago or Abilene or Miami or Los Angeles. At home, he knows, his children are opening their gifts. Last night, perhaps, they knelt beside the crèche at the foot of the family tree with their mother, his wife, to pray to God that their daddy will be safely returned to them. Somewhere, he knows, the great hymns of Christmas are playing. He can almost see his young wife as she gathers a few unopened packages from under the tree and sets them aside. "He'll be home to get these," she tells the children. And he can almost hear her. Oh God, almost.

Meanwhile the war our politicians have refused to permit dent says we are no longer even trying to win it, and regularly escalates our phased withdrawal. He has even ordered an expansion of trade with the East European arsenal of the Vietcong. And the war goes on and on.

Mr. Canavan's painting honors those hundreds of Americans known to be in Enemy hands, waiting for the slow anger of war. To rise up and free our men held captive. To rise up and return the governing of our country to men of honor and courage and commitment. That anger is stirring. And, because it is, there yet remains hope for the imprisoned American on our cover. With that thought — for him, and for hundreds like him, and from all of us — we wish you a merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Scott Stanley Jr.

CALCULATION

Giving Ourselves The Business

Susan L.M. Huck is a graduate of Syracuse University, with advanced degrees from the University of Michigan and Clark University. Dr. Huck has taught as a university professor of both geography and sociology, lectured before academic audiences on four continents, acted as advisor to one the world's leading encyclopedias, and is a Contributing Editor to The Review Of The News.



■ SINCE World War II, development in America of electronic computers has leaped and surged until it is entirely proper to speak of a Computer Revolution. According to Ivan Berenyi in *Scientific American* for October 1970, "Every major early design was financed, directly or indirectly, by the [American] Department of Defense. The computer was unquestionably a by-product of [American] military research and development in the postwar decade." As late as 1955, says Berenyi, "the U.S.S.R. had no computer industry as such." And the fact is that in both production and defense, the country without computers at its command is outclassed. Possession of inferior computers, few in number, leaves their owner a second-class power.

No one, friend or foe, disputes American leadership in the field of computer technology. This applies to both "hardware" (the actual computers and related equipment) and what is called "software" (the data-processing or problem-solving programs which enable the computers to

do their jobs). Our far superior hardware and software are a product of the cream of American brainpower and technology. Although hardly unprecedented, it would seem the height of folly deliberately to allow our best accomplishments in this vital field to serve our avowed enemies the Communists, greatest mass-murderers of all time.

The Soviets would be *hopelessly* behind if they had to rely upon their own efforts in the computer field. As Mr. Antony Sutton, doubtless the world's top expert on the subject of Western technological aid to the Communist bloc, notes:

*At the end of the 1950's the United States had about 5,000 computers in use, while the Soviet Union utilized an estimated 120 The general characteristics of these computers suggest, according to well-qualified sources, that the technology was well behind that of the West and barely out of the first-generation stage even as late as the 1960's.**

Explaining that the standby of Soviet rocket and missile research in the late 1950s was their early B.E.S.M. computer, Mr. Sutton quotes a top Ford Motor Company engineer describing the B.E.S.M. as the best of such "achievements of Soviet technology," but adding

*Mr. Sutton is a research fellow of the respected Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University. He is now finishing the third volume of his superbly detailed *Western Technology And Soviet Economic Development*.

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Pope

A Prisoner of War in North Vietnam, Christmas 1970

